



Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

Event Name	Fertilizer Plant Explosion SITREP #2
Date	04/18/2013
Time	04/18/2013, 0700 Hours -04/18/13, 1900 Hours
Operational Period	0700-1900
Report Number	#2

Regions Affected

DPS Regions Affected	Region 6
DDC's Active	Waco 11/23

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

The State of Texas received a report of an explosion in North Central Texas at the West Fertilizer plant in the City of West, McLennan County. The explosion occurred at approximately 7:50 p.m., on Wednesday, April 17th, 2013. Numerous injuries have been reported, with some people still missing. Due to health and safety concerns, evacuation of a significant portion of the community was conducted. The fire at the plant is contained; however, significant damage was reported to structures within several blocks of the plant, including a middle school, nursing home, numerous residences, and businesses. An Incident Command Post (ICP) was established at Saint Mary's Church and a staging area was also activated. The State Operations Center activated at Level II (Escalated Response) beginning at 0700 hours on 4/18/13 to support emergency response operations. Governor Perry has issued a proclamation, declaring a state of disaster in McLennan County.

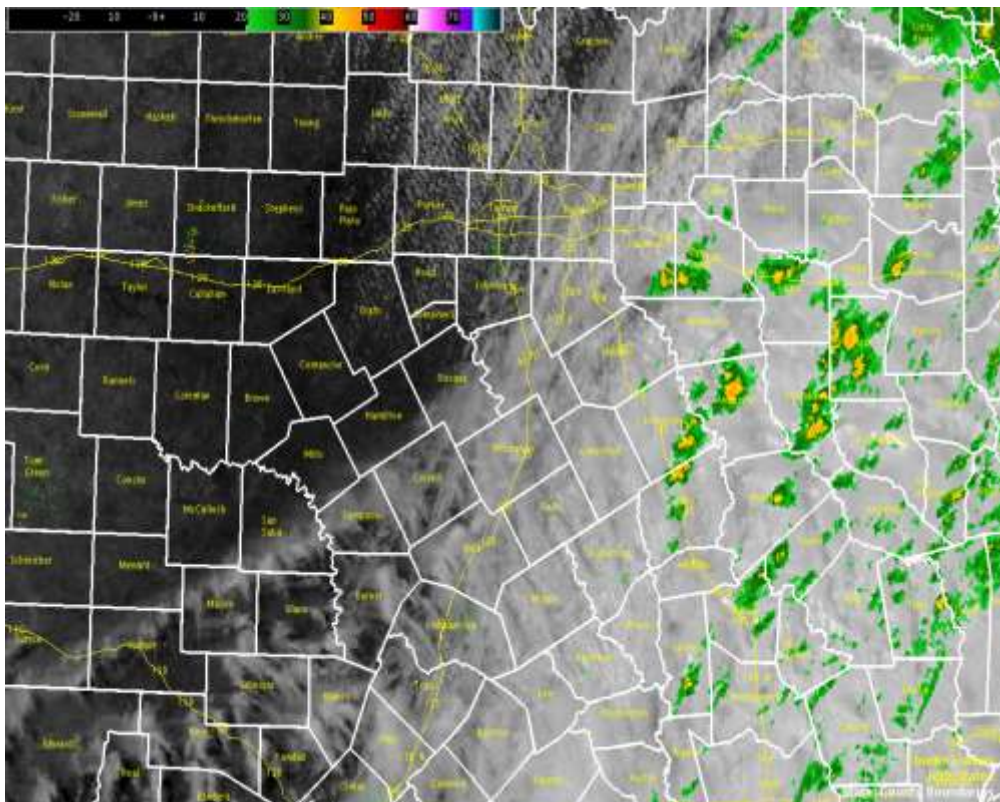


INFRASTRUCTURE:

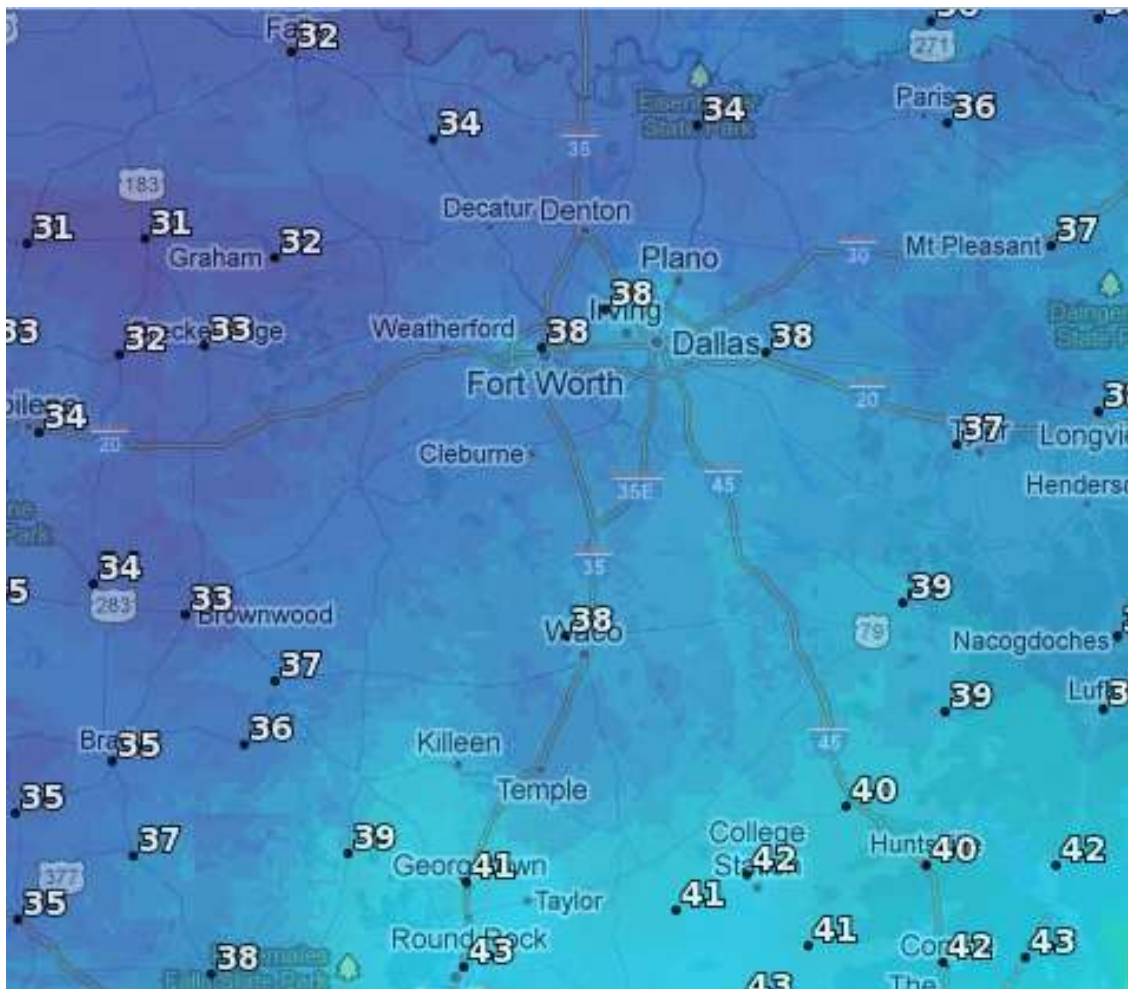
Oncor Electric was impacted by the explosion and many customers are unable to receive power because of damage to Oncor facilities. The utility provider has had staff on-site since last night, and is working closely with local emergency management officials. The City of West public water system is offline due to damage to water lines around the site of the explosion. Personnel are attempting to isolate the south-side of the system to restore service. A boil-water notice will be issued when service is restored. Cottonwood Water Supply provided water to the fertilizer plant and received damage close to the impacted area. Cottonwood Water Supply isolated the damaged area and has adequate pressure in the rest of the system. Hilltop WSC is also in the area, but sustained no damage. AT&T has confirmed that their Central Office in West was not impacted. AT&T is assessing other infrastructure and is prepared to deploy mobile cellular units, if needed.

WEATHER:

National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region Headquarters forecasts no significant rainfall for the next 12 hours. Temperatures are forecast to range from 45 to 50 degrees early in the afternoon, increasing into the lower to middle 50s later in the day, with wind chills in the 40s. Partial clearing should occur later in the afternoon. Northwest winds could range from 15 to 25mph with a few higher gusts continuing until sunset. Overnight, skies should be mostly clear, with temperatures in the upper 30s. Winds are forecast to be from the northwest at 10 to 20 miles per hour. Currently, skies are clearing just to the east of the city of West, over Bosque and Coryell Counties, and should be clearing over McLennan County in the next few hours. All storms are east of West, TX and will continue to remain east of the area.



Expected low temperatures tonight range from the mid 30s to low 40s, with the low for West, TX being around 38 degrees.



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Conduct search and rescue.
2. Protect life and property.
3. Support rapid & effective response.
4. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
5. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

REGION 6 (DDCs 11, 23)

County: McLennan: A local state of disaster was declared.

Disaster District (DDC) Waco: The DDC is fully activated, identifying needed resources and providing coordination of state resources assigned to the DDC. DDC Waco will conduct 24-hour operations through the night, and into the next operational period.

City of West: The City of West has declared a state of disaster. Area Command at the McLennan County EOC was activated at 1900 on 04/17/2013 with a mobile command on scene. Staging and triage areas were originally established at the City of West, High School but were relocated due to the proximity of the evacuation zone and potential additional safety concerns from the plant.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): The Federal Aviation Administration issued temporary flight restrictions due to hazardous conditions on 04/18/2013. Flight restrictions cover a radius of 3 nautical miles, and extend from the surface to 3000 feet above ground level.

Texas Salvation Army: The Salvation Army continues to provide 5 feeding canteens for West.

American Red Cross (ARC): Coordinating with local officials on sheltering support and responded to provide feeding support.

Areas Hospitals: Multiple area hospitals provided emergency medical care to injured citizens.

STATE AGENCY RESPONSE: Activated state resources included

State Agencies Actively	Type of specialized Equipment being utilized
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Highway Patrol	Support to DDC Waco activation, traffic control, local law enforcement support
TXDPS Criminal Investigations Division (CID)	Investigative support and personnel
The State Fire Marshall's office	Investigative support and personnel
Texas Military Forces (TXMF)	6 th Civil Support Team (CST)
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)	Personnel, traffic control, fuel support teams
Texas Task Force 1 (TTF1).	Urban Search & Rescue Type I Team, Search and Rescue K-9 Teams
Texas Task Force 2 (TTF2).	Type III Task Force
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Hazmat Strike Team, Air Quality Monitoring, Plume Modeling
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	2 Mortuary Trailers, Mobile Morgue Unit, 2 Medical Incident Support Team (MIST) personnel, State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is activated. 2 Ambuses from Schertz and Cisco deployed to City of West. 1 Rapid Assessment Team (RAT).
Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	Regional State and District Coordinator staff to support DDC Waco and impacted local jurisdictions. Assist a temporary morgue, family assistance center, Incident Management Team, and donations management.
Texas A & M Forest	Incident Management Team Planning Section

Service (TA&MFS)	
STRAC	WebEOC support
American Red Cross (ARC).	Shelter Coordination and Support, Emergency Response Vehicle (ERVs)
Texas Salvation Army	Canteen support for impacted citizens and first responders
2-1-1 (HHSC)	Texas Information Referral Network
Texas Animal Health Commission	2 personnel to provide assistance with deceased domestic animals
Communications Coordination Group (CCG)	AT&T to provide cellular on wheels to provide additional cellular communications capability
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	Two supervisors and ten Game Wardens to establish perimeter roadblocks and conduct site security.
Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Coordinate with local school district concerning damage to schools.
Civil Air Patrol (CAP)	Aerial photography in support of Search and Rescue.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TA&MFS): The Texas A&M Forest Service began mobilizing resources on 4/17/13 to assist at the West Incident Command Post (ICP), the Waco DDC, and the State Operations Center (SOC). Currently three personnel are working at the SOC, three personnel are onsite at the Waco DDC, and a 12-person Type III IMT is deployed to the West ICP. The TFS Mobile Command Post and Communication trailer are also at the ICP. Three additional Type 3 IMTs were rostered and available for deployment if needed.

Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TTF1 and TTF2): TTF1 Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Type I Team to include Damage Assessment Personnel for collapse structure assessment were deployed. A Search and Rescue K-9 Team has also been deployed. TTF2 Type III Search and Rescue Task Force have also been deployed. SAR personnel are conducting primary and secondary searches in the affected area.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): The DSHS State Medical Operations Center has been activated. DSHS has deployed a Texas Funeral Director Association (TFDA) Strike Team with two Mortuary Trailers. One portable morgue unit was staged in Waco, and is expected to be deactivated. Two Medical Incident Support Team (MIST) team members and a Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) have also been activated.

Texas Military Forces (TXMF): TXMF received two STAR requests, and has deployed eight vehicles and twenty personnel from the 6th Civil Support Team (CST) to West Middle School to assist with chemical substance detection. A TXMF Military District Coordinator (MDC) has also been deployed to Waco to support the DDC. The CST has completed an entry to place air monitoring equipment around the west side of the perimeter of fertilizer plant. The Hazmat command had a safety stand down during the thunderstorm, lasting approximately 2 hrs. CST is preparing entry teams to reset or change water filters on Area RAEs; and to conduct a light site recon of with Waco Hazmat. Personnel are using a Down Range Camera to record footage of the site and observe hand held instrumentation from a slowly moving vehicle. The TXMF Homeland Response Force (HRF) was placed on standby to provide decontamination and Search and Extraction, and has been released.

Communications Coordination Group (CCG): Activated to provide additional emergency communication resources and/or support if needed.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ is providing air monitoring and technical assistance. A strike team and mobile command post were deployed to the scene. A TCEQ contractor provided a summary of monitoring by hand-held instruments. All readings for ammonia by and Gastech units were less than 1 part per million (ppm). All readings for nitrogen oxides (NOX) by MultiRAE were also less than 1ppm. MultiRAE lower explosive limit reading was less than 1%. VOC readings by MultiRAE units were less than 1ppm. The only elevated readings obtained were for particulate matter (smoke, dust, etc.) with a maximum reading of 0.19 milligram per cubic meter (mg/m3) and an average of 0.022 mg/m3. All readings were within a safe range.

Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT): Has deployed two 300-gallon fuel trailers to provide fuel for emergency vehicles. Sixteen TxDOT personnel and seven trucks are closing city streets to control access to the affected area. Two personnel and four trucks are conducting refueling operations using truck-bed fuel tanks. Three TxDOT personnel are assisting with coordination and communication efforts at the EOC in West. Two other available sites for refueling are located in Waco and Hillsboro.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Two supervisors and ten Game Wardens responded to the explosion on 4/17 to establish perimeter roadblocks and conduct site security with DPS. TPWD will be working three 8-hour shifts starting at 0600 on 4/18 with 1 supervisor and 10 Game Wardens.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): Provided personnel to support animal evacuation, and to assist with damage assessment.

Office of the Texas State Chemist: Dispatched investigators to provide assistance as needed, and to prepare for recovery operations.

2-1-1 (Health and Human Services Commission): Providing public information via calls made to the Texas Information Referral Network 2-1-1.

Public Information Officer (PIO)/Joint Information Center (JIC):

Media requests continue to be received and are being forwarded to the Public Information Office.

Texas Education Agency (TEA): Coordinating with local school district concerning damage to the middle school in West.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP): Aerial photography in support of Search and Rescue.

FINAL COMMENTS: The SOC is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in support of the Fertilizer Plant Explosion. The Texas Division of Emergency Management is supporting emergency response operations and coordinating state resource support as required. The next situation report will be published on Friday, April, 19, 2013.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

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